

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Insertion are indicated by underlining and deletions are indicated by double bracketing or by strike-through.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11 line 18, as follows:

The invention is further premised, in part, on the unexpected discovery of another family of nucleic acids that is as immunostimulatory as previously reported CpG nucleic acids. This family of nucleic acids comprises the nucleotide sequence having the formula of

5' TCG TCG TTT TGT CGT TTT T X₁X₂ X₃X₄X₅ 3' (SEQ ID NO:5)

wherein X₁ through X₅ ~~[[X₉]]~~ are independently selected residues that may be selected from the group of nucleotides consisting of adenosine, guanosine, thymidine, and cytosine. In some embodiments, there may be no flanking residues. As an example, the nucleic acid may comprise a nucleotide sequence of 5' TCG TCG TTT TGT CGT TTT T 3' (SEQ ID NO:6).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14 line 28, continuing to page 15 line 2, as follows:

Poly G nucleic acids preferably are nucleic acids having the following formulas:

5' X₁X₂GGGX₃X₄ 3'

wherein X₁, X₂, X₃, and X₄ are nucleotides. In preferred embodiments at least one of X₃ and X₄ are a G. In other embodiments both of X₃ and X₄ are a G. In yet other embodiments the preferred formula is 5' GGGNGGG 3' (SEQ ID NO:28)~~[[,]]~~ or 5' GGGNGGGNGGG 3' (SEQ ID NO:29), wherein N represents between 0 and 20 nucleotides.